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State of State Message, 1/71.

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Notes: Originals on 7 inch reels. Master copies on CD.

An announcer provides commentary, describes Governor Egan, shaking hands, approaching the rostrum.

Howard Bradshaw(?) speaks first. He says it is a time-honored tradition to extol the virtues and the record of the governor but that would be redundant and unnecessary as the record of William Egan has been extolled and expressed in every village and hamlet of the state. He says that Egan is a governor of three decades. He was the only governor in 1950s, the first governor in the 1960s and the he first governor of the 1970s.

The audience applauds. Governor Egan speaks and greets the audience. He says that this is the time prescribed in the constitution of the state of Alaska when governor advises the legislature and the people of the Alaska on his views concerning the affairs of state. At this time, among others, the governor is to recommend measures he considers necessary to the orderly pursuit of the objectives of the state government. He says he sees many old friends, wise in legislative ways, and many new faces, bringing freshening experience. All of these people are dedicated to building a prosperous, peaceful and just Alaska.

Egan says he is aware of the resources of thought and energy that the elected members of the legislative branch can bring to the analysis of the affairs of the state. Each member is to make their own assessment of the condition of the state and the measures which may be necessary to further the interest of its people. Egan does not suggest that is his duty alone to propose and their duty alone to dispose. The differences in opinion people have can and must be worked out; a team that is not pulling together is working at cross-purposes. Egan hopes that when the session that is now opening comes to an end, they will have found a solid approach to the opportunities open to us in the 1970s. All efforts and concerns should be seen in relation to the overall objectives of governmental policy. The hard questions are not whether a proposal is good or bad but whether, in a limited resource economy, the urgency of one program outweighs that of another.

One of his earliest acts in talking office was to expand the work of the program budgeting study project authorized by the legislature last year as a effort to bring modern management techniques to the state government. He hopes these techniques will help build a more accurate picture of what the state is doing and provide a useful tool to help evaluate the success of all the programs by measuring efficiency in dollars spent and ensuring that the programs actually produce their intended benefit. Organizational change will, in many areas, clarify proprieties or improve efficiency in the operation of government. Change should not be pursued for the sake of change nor should major reorganization be attempted

without careful planning. One area of reorganization has already been given substantial study by the legislature: adequate recognition and protection of the Alaskan environment. Following the work of Alaskan legislative council, Governor Egan intends to propose legislation establishing a cabinet level department of Environmental Affairs with responsibility for maintaining clean air and water throughout the state and establishing adequate environmental surveillance of the design and construction of major public and private works in the state. Education will continue to enjoy status as a high priority.

Any need for remedial legislation will be closely monitored as the state operated school reorganization plan, which was adopted last year, is implemented. On July 1, the state operated schools will begin operating much as would a new and separate department of government. The board required for the system will soon be appointed. There will be a loan program for students attending private educational institutions. As one of several means in which investment policy can be used for socially desirable ends, a policy will be adopted of purchasing federally guaranteed student loans for investments. Investment policy may be adjusted to provide investments in Alaska and in Alaskan human resources.

Egan will propose guidelines redirecting the bank participation housing loan programs to lower income groups which have the greatest need for help in securing mortgage financing. The maximum dollar limit on veterans' loans should be raised to realistic levels. In areas where housing is a problem, men and women of the Alaska National Guard should be supported with expanded housing opportunities.

Alaska has long relied on information gained from private sources concerning the location and value of its natural resources. A new approach to natural resource development is needed. A geophysical division will be proposed to strengthen the capacity of the department of natural resources to adequately identify and appraise Alaska's subsurface wealth to obtain full value and benefit from the natural resources.

The audience applauds.

The proposals of the federal law land review commission will stir action in the U.S. Congress and in this legislature. These proposals in Congress must be carefully monitored. They must also consider how best to respond to the commission's wise proposals for joint federal-state land use planning. Not only is joint land use planning vital to the selection of the state's public land base, but all Alaskans have an interest in the management of residual lands in Alaska that will remain in federal ownership.

The resources of the sea must be conserved and developed as much as those of the land. Egan plans to request funding for a major program which includes clearing of salmon streams and stocking of various barren lakes. The problem of the effect of unlimited entry on the fishing resource and the fisherman's economy will be given a new, fresh appraisal.

Careful study should be given to the subject of state constitutional revision in support of the state's efforts in fisheries resource management. Marine research labs and institutes will be needed to carry out conservation and development, of the ocean resources. The conducting the work and training of the people to do it can best be carried out where the resources are found. It is logical for these facilities to be built in important sea-cast communities such as Kodiak and Seward. The state must make clear to

Congress and to the executive branch of the U.S. government that Alaska has unyielding determination to fight for extension of control of our fisheries resources to the limit of the continental shelf.

The audience applauds.

Egan will be submitting a resolution petitioning the President and the Congress to take action on this matter.

Developments of recent years have made clear the need for coordinated planning of development in areas of Alaska which lack local government capacity. The settlement of the Native Land Claims question this year and the expansion of activity in the most vacant areas of Alaska will make the situation more acute.

Here the tape cuts out.